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Provisional summary record of the 44th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 11 October 2006, at noon

President: Mr. Hachani ..... (Tunisia)

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(a) Reports of coordination bodies

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The meeting was called to order at 12.10 p.m.

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (*continued*) (A/61/16)

1. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), Chairperson of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, introducing the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session (A/61/16), said that the Committee had reviewed a number of issues concerning programme and coordination questions, evaluation, and the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009. It had also continued to consider the improvement of working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate, as had been done each year since the thirty-eighth session.

2. With regard to programme performance, the Committee commended the Office of Internal Oversight Services for improving the programme performance report and for complying with requests by the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Coordination for improved performance reporting and for promoting a results-based culture in the United Nations. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to ensure that programme managers and their staff improved in their use of programme performance data in decision-making.

3. After the proposed strategic framework, Part One, Plan outline and Part Two, Biennial programme plan, the Committee had decided that programme 19 on human rights should be allocated to the Third Committee for its review and action; and that subprogramme 1, Economic and Social Council support and coordination, of programme 7 should be allocated to the Second Committee for similar consideration under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning". The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should review the Plan outline of Part One in order for it to reflect the longer-term objectives of the organization more accurately.

4. The Committee agreed that the Office of Internal Oversight Services should continue to undertake thematic evaluations for submission to the Committee, and it selected the topics to be presented by the Office of Internal Oversight Services during the period to 2009. Recommendations concerning coordination included the suggestion that the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination should report on progress achieved in tackling the main difficulties encountered in addressing malnutrition and hunger. There were also recommendations on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including consideration of the issues raised in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document A/61/69.

5. The Committee had examined a compilation of the conclusions and recommendations on improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate which it had adopted from its thirty-eighth to forty-fourth sessions, as well as proposals submitted by delegations at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions. After a full discussion of the item, she had presented an informal paper, to be found in paragraph 439 of the report, which received broad support in the Committee.

6. **Mr. Maqungo** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed appreciation for the guidance given by the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the entities of the United Nations system on their programmes and activities and said that the Committee's mandate contributed to the enhancement of coherence and coordination throughout the system. He urged members of the Council to pay particular attention to the coordination questions contained in Chapter III of the Committee's report, which dealt with the report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board and reports on the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

7. The Chief Executives Board played a vital role in improving inter-agency cooperation and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations system. The Board also contributed to the process of sharing experiences among United Nations organizations, and to the development of a coordination strategy and policy aimed at enhancing the output of the organizations. The Group of 77 and China welcomed the efforts of the Board in developing a system-wide approach to the coordination of action among the agencies in the fight against hunger and poverty.

8. The Group of 77 and China believed that the Chief Executives Board should also continue to ensure effective coordination of the United Nations system's support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which was a matter of priority to the organization. In that context, the Group of 77 and China supported the recommendation that the Economic Commission for Africa and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa should be strengthened in order to coordinate the contributions of United Nations agencies to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and assist in its implementation at the regional and global levels.

9. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) said that, although his delegation supported the statement of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, he was disturbed at the failure of the Committee to rationalize its working methods, as called for repeatedly by the General Assembly. That several members of the Committee had felt moved to walk out because they were so sharply in disagreement over its working methods indicated a need for reform in order to preserve the credibility of the Committee.

10. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), Chairperson of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, said that the Committee had been actively considering the reform and revitalization of its working methods. Many useful proposals had been made, as the report showed, but no consensus had been reached on them. In the forty-sixth session there had been broad support for a set of proposals, contained in paragraph 439 of the report, but a handful of members had disagreed. Since the Committee was scheduled to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, it was still on track in its reform process.

11. **The President** proposed the following oral decision:

> "The Economic and Social Council decides to take note of the report of the Committee on Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session (A/61/16)."

12. **Mr. Mally** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of position, said that at the conclusion of the forty-sixth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the United States had disassociated itself from the consensus in support of the adoption of the Committee's report, because the Committee had once again failed to improve its working methods and procedures, as repeatedly mandated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 58/269, 59/275 and 60/257. The Committee's failure to improve its effectiveness had raised serious concerns about its discussion of substantive issues, so that his delegation had not engaged in such discussions with other Committee members. However, at each appropriate opportunity, his delegation had noted that its failure to intervene did not convey or imply its support and that it reserved the right to convey its views on all the issues addressed in the Committee's report when the items came before the General Assembly. It would continue to assess the Committee's overall accomplishments when the report was presented to the Fifth Committee. Based on those understandings and the fact that the term "taking note" was neutral and constituted neither approval nor disapproval of the report, his delegation was willing to join other members in "taking note" of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-sixth session.

13. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) expressed appreciation for the hard work of the Chairperson of the Committee, but said that his delegation had disassociated itself from the consensus adoption of the report in the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as described in paragraph 19 of the Committee's report. His delegation would express its views later in the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 41/213.

14. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the decision he had announced orally.

15. *It was so decided.*

16. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China in explanation of position, said that her delegation and the Group of 77 and China had joined the consensus because they believed that the Committee on Programme and Coordination had fully executed the mandate and the request given to it by the General Assembly and had met the provisions of resolutions 60/257 and 59/275. The General Assembly had requested the Committee not only to consider ways of improving its working methods but also to ensure that it concluded all the other important agenda items before it, such as the strategic framework for the Organization for the period 2008-2009. Her delegation wished to express appreciation for the efforts of the Committee and acknowledge that it had been able to complete all its tasks. Her delegation considered it a

very positive step that the Committee for the first time had included in its report a text on improving its working methods that expressed the broadest possible consensus obtainable in the Committee. It regretted that some members had not felt able join the consensus and encouraged them to consider doing so in the future.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.